

MEMPHIS APPEAL - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18. 1863.

Daily Appeal.
ATLANTA, GA.

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18.

STRENGTHENING THE ARMY.

Late dispatches from the United States, present as the fruit of the last draft, the probable addition to their army of sixty thousand men. It would seem that notwithstanding the great differences in legislation, proclamations, and newspapers, from time to time, of large and other additions to the Federal armies, there is

worries through they outnumber us three to one in population, is keeping their armies to point required by the exigencies and commands of the war. It may be satisfactory enough not, perhaps, edifying, to us to consider, as great as our troubles are, or have been, that regard, they are equalled, if not surpassed, by those of our antagonists, and that, in keeping up our arms to effect our point for resistance, has done quite as much for us as numbers have done for them. In sustaining them, for the necessary work of aggression.

The difficulty with them seems to proceed from unwillingness, whereas our difficulty does not seem to be so much a difficulty of unwillingness, as it does of bad administration and legislation, political and military.

We might have always had men enough for effective duty on all our lines, if it had not been for unwise legislation, in allowing such multitudinous exemptions and substitutions, and equally unwise administration in impotently enforcing the conscription law, and in wasting the strength of the army by diffusing a large part of it over the country in miseries and offices not needed, and which were in effect a nuisance.

Indulgences, in many instances, permitted of unnecessary furloughs and leave, and, without sufficient cause, to officers and not to speak of the numerous absences.

But leave, the result of bad administration in the quartermaster, commissary and medical departments; or of captains, or subalterns, or non-commissioned officers by ignorant, vain, capricious or tyrannical officers. One unfortunate phenomenon has been lost to us from the beginning of the war, the disappearance of our armies as efficient forces after a campaign or a battle, instead of their recuperative reorganization for other and active fields of immediate duty.

Obviously, if an army retains a defeat, its duty is, if possible, to retrieve it; if it gains a victory, to reap its fruits, and not to be disbanded or disbanded. It strikes us that what is needed now, is prompt action on the part of Congress and the Executive in increasing and reorganizing the army. If Congress will place the whole substitute and example force of the country, by the repeal of the laws authorizing men in the army, and the President will enforce vigorously and universally the conscription law as it exists, and rule the country by

the large army of needless details, to whose apportioned duties the State forces are fully equal, our army will be large enough and strong enough to meet the enemy—of judge of his probable strength, deduced as an inference from the dispatch adverted to—without calling out as a reserve force such part of our population as may lie beyond forty-five years of age, recommended by the President, and advocated by his friend Mr. WISFALL in the Senate.

While we are not opposed abstractly to calling into active field service every capable man that may be needed for the defense of the country, our desire is that he should be capable, far capable as to become a soldier in the field, and not to be a quasi soldier, study to fulfill duty in the country. Such a measure will have simply the effect of subjecting him, as a citizen, to the possible privations of his right, civil and political, to the military control of the President, through his post functionaries and ex parte martial, and which, if done, should be done alone by the undesignated power of the State.

Who knows but what this may be the newspaper proposition for a disaster, revived in another form, and may make some ultimate change in our purely federative system. Military necessity is a very specious plea, and senators and representatives, and governors of States, should look well to measures of legislation proposed under its influence.

Power is a thing so pleasant to those who hold it, that there are not wanting precedents of unwillingness to relinquish it, when once possessed, for any cause, or of the inability of political rights to stand against its unscrupulous influence when once established. "The blood of the blood," of which WASHINGTON was the author, may have died out.

In looking at the prospect before us, as presented in the comparison of probable positions of the Federal army, and our own, we have no reason, if the Executive Government will do its full duty by the country, for despondency. The country will do its duty in every extremity in sending every man that can be spared to the field, if the Executive will do his duty in administering the army in such a way as not to trifle its power away by the injudicious appointment of men to positions to which they are unequal or the unwise distribution of our strength upon points and operations, which yield nothing in the way of advantage to the country or cause, but rather defeat and disaster.

From Longstreet.

General Longstreet's headquarters are now at Knoxville, Hawkins county, about forty miles northeast of Knoxville, and he is considered for the present stationary. There were, at an account, no indications of an attack on the enemy.

We understand that General Longstreet, in his reports of his campaign against Burnside, says he lost seven hundred men in the attack on Knoxville, and that the place would have been captured by assault but for the misunderstanding of orders by some of his subaltern officers. It seems, says the Executive, that our man, after suffering heavily, had reached the enemy's encampments, and here, for a long time, kept watch and waited for reinforcements to reach them to relieve.

RENO TON—This natural scamp will give another concert evening for the benefit of Col. Howard. Gen. Banks having kindly invited his services as a partial recompence for the Colonel's managing the previous concert. Col. Howard has been indispensable in his efforts to please and amuse the audience who have attended Tom's entertainments, and we hope he will receive at their hands a substantial evidence of their appreciation of his efforts.

We are requested to state that, by request of the ladies of Atlanta, Tom will give a concert tomorrow, Saturday, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of enabling the young ladies and minors to attend, the whole of the proceeds of which will be devoted to charitable purposes.

ARMED BOAT FIGHTS—The Memphis Argus states that the Hawkeye State was fired into recently by guerrillas some twenty-five miles above the city. The Argus says several shots struck the boat, but no one was injured on board.

THE LATE BATTLES.

MOTORS APPEAL: I believe that your paper has a more extensive circulation, certainly in the army and with Tennessee refugees, than any other paper in Atlanta, and because it is important to write the history of these eventful times correctly, I beg of you the favor to permit one who knows whereof to affix to make a hearty commentary through your columns on a communication over the signature of "Marshall," published in the Knoxville Register. I make the following extract from that communication, viz.: "Bart's and Finley's brigades were the last to leave the line after twice repelling the enemy with great slaughter, and then did not leave until the division of the right (Anderson's) and on their left (Swett's) had given way, and the enemy had turned both our right and left, and turned our own guns upon us in an enfilading fire."

I would not say one word, even if the facts justified it, in dispraise of the gallantry of each and every division. It may be satisfactory enough not, perhaps, edifying, to us to consider, as great as our troubles are, or have been, that regard, they are equalled, if not surpassed, by those of our antagonists, and that, in keeping up our arms to effect our point for resistance, has done quite as much for us as numbers have done for them. In sustaining them, for the necessary work of aggression.

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